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General

Malaysia consists of 11 states and one federal territory, located on the mainland (Malay Peninsula), and the states of Sabah and Sarawak, located on the island of Borneo. The two sections of the country are separated by the South China Sea and lie about 400 miles apart.

The mainland section of Malaysia is bounded on the N by Thailand and on the S by Singapore.

The island section is bounded on the S side by Indonesia (S part of Borneo) and Brunei lies about midway along its N coast.

Malaysia is involved in a complex territorial dispute with China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Brunei concerning the Spratly Islands. In addition, Malaysia is involved in a dispute with Singapore concerning two islands, with Brunei concerning two islands, and with the Philippines concerning Sabah.

The terrain consists of coastal plains rising to hills and mountains. Most of the central part of the Malay Peninsula is covered by dense tropical jungle.

The climate is tropical, with a Southwest Monsoon from April to October and a Northeast Monsoon from October to February.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Cautions

Fishing Devices

Fish aggregating devices are moored at a number of places off the E and W coasts of the Malay Peninsula. These devices lie in depths of up to 30m and are usually marked by buoys. Vessels should give them a wide berth.

Rigs

Movable oil drilling rigs and production platforms may be encountered off the coasts of Malaysia and in open waters. Buoys associated with the drilling operations are frequently moored in the vicinity of these structures. The positions of these rigs and buoys are frequently changed and are generally promulgated by radio navigational warnings.

Piracy

It was reported (1995) that vessels have been attacked by armed thieves in the vicinity of the Malacca and Singapore Straits, mainly near Phillip Channel. These attacks were usually made from fast motor boats approaching from astern. Loaded vessels with low freeboard seem to be particularly vulnerable. Vessels with low free-board transiting the Malacca Strait often use security lights to guard against piracy. These lights by their brilliance may obscure the vessel's navigation lights. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce has established a Piracy Countermeasures Center at Kuala Lumpur.

The center operates for the Southeast Asian Region and is able to receive reports from vessels concerning attacks and advise of danger areas. Piracy warnings originated by the Center will be broadcast daily to NAVAREA XI, VIII, and X through Enhanced Group Calling using the SafetyNET System.

For further details the IMB Center can be contacted, as follows:

IMB Piracy Reporting Center
ICC International Maritime Bureau
P.O. Box 12559
50782 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Telephone: +60-3-2031-0014
Facsimile: +60-3-2078-5769
Telex: MA31880 IMBPCI
E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org.uk

IMB Piracy Reporting Center Home Page

http://www.iccwbo.org/ccs/menu_imb_piracy.asp

General

For further information concerning dangers in the vicinity of the Malacca and Singapore Straits, see Singapore—Cautions.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the ringgit, consisting of 100 sen.

Firing Areas

The following firing practice and exercise areas lie off the W coast of Malaysia:

1. **(WM) D1 Butterworth.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 5°43'N, 100°19'E.
- 5°43'N, 100°15'E.
- 5°57'N, 100°02'E.
- 6°02'N, 100°02'E.
- 6°04'N, 100°04'E.
- 6°04'N, 100°09'E.
- 5°53'N, 100°21'E.

2. **(WM) D16 Song Song.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 5°49'N, 100°17'E.
- 5°49'N, 100°18'E.
- 5°48'N, 100°20'E.
- 5°47'N, 100°21'E.
- 5°46'N, 100°19'E.
- 5°45'N, 100°18'E.
- 5°47'N, 100°17'E.

3. **(WM) D18 Butterworth.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 5°00'N, 99°00'E.
- 5°47'N, 99°00'E.
- 5°47'N, 99°47'E.
- 5°00'N, 99°47'E.

- 5°05'N, 99°05'E.
- 5°13'N, 99°05'E.
- 5°13'N, 99°42'E.
- 5°05'N, 99°42'E.
- 5°42'N, 99°05'E.
- 5°42'N, 99°42'E.
- 5°34'N, 99°42'E.
- 5°34'N, 99°05'E.

4. **(WM) P19 Bukit Serene.**—An area within a circle, with a radius of 2 miles, centered on 1°28'N, 103°46'E with the S border coinciding, with the coast line of South Johor.

5. **(WM) D30 Butterworth.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 7°04'N, 98°00'E.
- 5°45'N, 98°00'E.
- 4°08'N, 100°18'E.
- 5°00'N, 100°05'E.
- 5°00'N, 100°00'E.
- 6°15'N, 100°00'E.
- 6°20'N, 99°55'E.
- 6°17'N, 99°30'E.

6. **(WM) D41 Malaysian Naval Exercise Area.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 1°25'N, 103°00'E.
- 1°30'N, 103°00'E.
- 1°27'N, 103°10'E.
- 1°22'N, 103°10'E.

7. **(WM) R301 Lumpur.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 3°20'N, 101°08'E counterclockwise along a 20-mile arc from the point of vortex (3°20'N, 101°28'E.) to
- 2°59'N, 101°27'E direct to
- 2°40'N, 101°25'E on a 40-mile arc from the point of vortex, then clockwise along the 40-mile arc to
- 3°20'N, 100°48'E.

8. **(WM) R401 Lumpur.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 3°20'N, 100°57'E.
- 3°20'N, 100°37'E.
- 4°00'N, 100°09'E.
- 4°00'N, 100°29'E.
- 3°48'N, 100°47'E then S for 2 miles to the W side of the coast line and then to
- 3°35'N, 101°01'E.

9. **(WM) R402 Alor Setar.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- 6°15'N, 99°30'E.
- 6°15'N, 100°05'E then W along the Alor Setar Control Zone boundary to
- 6°26'N, 100°09'E then a straight line joining the Malaysia/Thailand border to
- 6°26'N, 99°30'E.

10. **(WM) R403 Alor Setar.**—Enclosed by a line joining the following positions:

- a. 5°58'N, 100°21'E then W along the coast to Alor Setar Control Boundary to
- b. 6°24'N, 100°08'E then W along the same boundary to
- c. 6°10'N, 100°04'E.
- d. 5°58'N, 100°17'E.

For further information concerning firing practice areas lying off the E coast of the Malay Peninsula and off the N coast of East Malaysia, see Pub. 120, Sailing Directions (Planning Guide) Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Government



Flag of Malaysia

Malaysia was established in 1963 and consisted of Malaya (the former British-ruled territories of the Malay Peninsula), Singapore, and the colonies of North Borneo (renamed Sabah) and Sarawak. In 1965, Singapore seceded from Malaysia.

The country consists of 13 states and two federal territories.

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy headed by the paramount ruler (King—elected by and from the hereditary rulers of the states for a 5-year term) and governed by a parliament. Executive power is vested in the Cabinet led by the Prime Minister (head of government). The parliament consists of a 69-member Senate (43 appointed by the King and 26 appointed by the state legislatures) and a 192-member House of Representatives directly elected to serve 5-year terms.

The legal system is mostly based on English common law.

The capital is Kuala Lumpur.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day (not observed in Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis and Trengganu)	January 1
City Day (only observed in Kuala Lumpur)	February 1
Labor Day	May 1
Wesak Day (not observed in Sabah)	May 27
Independence Day	August 31
Christmas Day	December 25

Other holidays, which vary from year to year in accordance with the appearance of the moon, are Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa, Hari Raya Haji, Awal Muharram, Deepavali (not

observed in Sabah and Sarawak), and the Birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

In addition, numerous local holidays, which vary from port to port, are also observed.

Industries

Major industries include the production and refining of crude oil and the production of liquefied natural gas.

Other principal industries include light manufacturing, electronics, tin, bauxite, iron ore, copper, rubber, timber, and palm oil processing. Livestock raising, fishing, shipping, and tourism are also important.

Agricultural crops include rubber, rice, palm oil, cocoa, tea, tobacco, fruits, coconut oil, and pepper.

Languages

The official language is Malay.

Tamil and Chinese dialects are also widely used. English is used in commerce, government, and secondary education.

Regulations

Vessels are advised not to anchor in the Strait of Malacca and Singapore Strait between the landward limit of the Traffic Separation Scheme or precautionary area and the adjacent port limits. Vessels are to anchor only in designated areas.

For information concerning Navigation Rules for the Malacca and Singapore Straits, see Singapore—Regulations.

Search and Rescue

Ship Reporting System

STRAITREP is a joint Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore mandatory ship reporting system in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. For further information on STRAITREP, see Singapore—Search and Rescue—Reporting Systems.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is HOTEL (-8). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur.

The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—
P.O. Box No. 10035
50700 Kuala Lumpur
2. Diplomatic pouch—
American Embassy Kuala Lumpur
APO AP 96535-8152

U. S. Embassy Malaysia Home Page

<http://usembassymalaysia.org.my>